Welfare Schemes announced by PM for North Eastern States

1292. DR. B.B. DUTTA:
SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH:
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Welfare and Development Programmes/Schemes for the people of North-Eastern States announced by the Prime Minister last month;

(b) whether the required resources for these programmes have been earmarked; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) The details of Welfare and Development Programmes/Schemes announced by the Prime Minister are given in the Annexure. [*See Appendix 179, Annexure No. 27]* The required resources for those programmes would be met from existing budget provisions or by reappropriation/supplementary grants for 1996-97 as applicable and provision made for the same in the 9th Five Year Plan.

Revival of facility of beep by MTNL

1293. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. was providing facility of beep after completion of duration of local call of 5 minutes till August, 96;

(b) whether intention for such facility was to alert subscribers for not keeping their phones busy for minutes together;

(c) whether this facility has since been discountinued without giving any Public Notice through media or through individually, if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether discontinuation of such facility has benefited the MTNL in any way;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether duration of local calls at present is five minutes; and

(g) whether Government propose to revive the facility of beep with immediate effect?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Yes Sir. Beep tone was provided in the year 1992 only in Digital Electronic Exchanges in large telephone systems on experimental basis for the awareness of the subscribers about the completion of one call unit every five minutes. Since the subscribers have become familier about the metering aspects and because of technical problems in data transmission and mutilation of FAX message it was decided to discontinue this facility.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) No, Sir.

Arjun Tank Project

1294. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govenment's attention had been drawn to the report in the National Herald of August 26, 1996 captioned, "Arjun Tank Project Under Cloud".

(b) if so, the precise stage the project stands at present; and

(c) the modifications and amends, if any, contemplated to make the tank